



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Chair: Milton Peach, B.A., B.A.(Ed.)
C.E.O./Director of Education: Ford Rice, B.A., B.Ed., M.Ed.

December 21, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Recommendation 10 of the School Facility Requirements of the Greater St. John's Area report states: The School Board take steps to close I. J. Samson Junior High School and Holy Cross Junior High School as soon as possible.

I would like to provide some clarity around the issue of temporarily retaining the grade seven students at St. Matthew's Elementary and Cowan Heights Elementary should the proposal to close I. J. Samson Junior High in June 2011 be accepted by the Eastern School Board.

The grade seven provincial curriculum will be taught at both schools by qualified teachers with subject expertise to support the junior high curriculum. The programming to be offered at both schools will reflect the same program currently offered at Beaconsfield Junior High for grade seven students. However, modifications or special arrangements may need to be made for some science lab activities. Late French Immersion may be offered at one or both sites if numbers warrant.

While this proposal will see the grade seven students retained in a K-6 setting, they will be housed in a homeroom setting with subject-based teaching with expertise as needed for junior high school curriculum. Students will also experience the independence of a junior high setting such as involvement in competitive, grade-level sports, extra-curricular activities, and the ability to leave school grounds during the lunch hour.

Should this proposal be accepted by the Eastern School Board, parents and guardians will receive further details on the implementation plan.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your school principal.

Sincerely,

FORD RICE, B.A., B.Ed., M.Ed.
C.E.O./DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

cc: Andrea Cooke, Principal, Cowan Heights Elementary
Kyran Dwyer, Principal, St. Matthew's Elementary
Anne Marie Cleary, Principal, Beaconsfield Junior High